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SOCIALISTS MAKE VIGOROUS ATTACKS

Nagle Opposes Literacy Test. Abolishment of the County Court Changes May Be Made Before Amendments Are Presented.

Arguments against two of the proposed amendments to the Constitution to be submitted August 1 have been received by Secretary of State J. L. Lyon since the date upon which he stated no further arguments would be accepted. He is willing, he says, to receive arguments on these amendments until the specifications for printing the publicity pamphlet shall have been made up. That will be in the next few days.

Arguments against two amendments were filed by P. S. Nagle, Socialist leader. The amendments he opposes are the literacy test and the abolition of the county courts. The tone of the arguments is of so lurid a hue that Secretary Lyon felt impelled to write to Mr. Nagle asking that he call and consider deletion of some of the arguments. If Mr. Nagle shall not see fit to call it is understood that Mr. Lyon intends to personally edit the objectionable matter out of the arguments. Some of the passages in the arguments by Mr. Nagle are severe to the point of castigation of Democrats of the Legislature and of the present State administration. Then there are some assertions that seem to be violent, at least they have that aspect to a Democratic official such as Mr. Lyon, and he will ask that they be modified before the pamphlet is printed.

The opposition that Mr. Nagle is making in his filed arguments indicates that his opinion of the literacy test and the abolition of county courts are the menacing items in the referendum for August of proposed amendments to the Constitution. The literacy test is simply a provision that persons without certain military records or ancestors with such records must pass a literacy test before they will be allowed to vote. It is a frankly partisan measure, directed in the main at the blacks whose ancestry or present personal status will not meet the measure. It may incidentally disfranchise some white voters, and this is a possible reason for the interest of the Socialists.

With respect to the court amendment, there is much opposition in the Democratic party. The amendment was urged by Governor Williams and is understood to be one of his favorite reforms in the judiciary. It provides in effect that district courts shall succeed in the jurisdiction now exercised by the county courts and that the latter shall be abolished. This places all the probate business of the State in the district courts. The amendment provides that the clerk of the district court shall be appointed by the judge of said court. As most of the districts in the State contain more than one county, it follows that in some counties there would be resident deputy clerks of the court with a great deal of power in probate matters. It is asserted by persons who oppose the amendment that this would bring many of the disadvantages and scandals of the Territory days when a similar situation existed in many of the counties. Reasons advanced in favor of the

change are cogent. They embrace a showing of economy in the business of the people already sorely oppressed by tax burdens. This is a grave and weighty argument. That there is little need of the county courts and the added expense of them is pointed out by persons who favor the change. This is met and denied by county clerks and county judges, whose tenure will be disturbed by the proposed change.

Organizations of interested officials are being formed throughout the State and the opposition to this amendment is to be such that its survival is considered a matter of doubt. The office holders are not inclined to see any reduction in the number of offices.

SOCIALIST LEADER REFUSES TO CHANGE ARGUMENTS

P. S. Nagle, protagonist of the Socialist arguments in the negative of the literacy test and the county court amendments to the Constitution, as submitted by the Legislature, called on the Secretary of State Wednesday and heard the objections that were offered by that official to the language and tenor of the negative arguments. Mr. Nagle is reported as having declined to alter his arguments. The Secretary is now understood to be undecided as to whether he will make the changes or refuse to publish the arguments. He will probably secure advice from the Attorney General. That official is understood to be of the opinion that the law does not permit any censorship of arguments and will no doubt so advise the Secretary.

MUST ELECT A COMMITTEEMAN

Cato Sells Says Federal Officeholders Should Not Hold Places on National Committee.

Although generally known for several months that he would not be a candidate to succeed himself as Democratic National Committeeman from Texas, Cato Sells, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, has made that formal announcement. His term as a member of the National Committee will continue until after the St. Louis convention has closed.

No Federal appointees are to be elected as delegates to the National convention this year, and it is Mr. Sells' position that a similar rule ought to apply to members of the National Committee. If possible, he will attend the Texas State convention to be held at San Antonio next month for the selection of delegates from Texas and the election of a new committeeman.

GOVERNOR IN THE CITY

Governor R. L. Williams came in from Oklahoma City the first of the week to spend several days here and at his farm looking after his business interests. The Governor is planning to diversify on all his farms and will not plant as much cotton as has been planted on his places in former years. To make diversification a success he will assist his renters in every way possible.

MASONS TO HOLD BANQUET

The annual banquet of the Durant Lodge, A. F. & A. M., will be held next Thursday, May 4. It is expected to make this banquet the best affair of the kind ever attempted by the local lodge, and committees are now working hard to that end.

REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 1

Precinct Registrars Have Been Appointed for Bryan County — During First Ten Days of May They Will Register the Qualified Voters.

County Registrar Connell has completed his job of selecting the Precinct Registrars for Bryan County, and they will enter upon their duties next Monday, May 1, and continue to register the voters for ten days. You are supposed to seek out the registrar, answer his questions and satisfy him that you are a qualified elector of your precinct. When you have done this he will issue to you a certificate of registration showing that you are qualified to exercise the privilege of suffrage in Oklahoma. It is up to every voter to seek out the registrar of his precinct and get his name on the rolls within the ten days specified by the law. If you do not do so, because of some misfortune, such as sickness, or absence from the county, you will be given another opportunity at a later date.

Some of the registrars will perhaps observe regular office hours, and such as decide to do so will be announced later through these columns. If they furnish this paper the data. The News will also announce where any of the registrars may be found if they will furnish the information. It is best, however, pending the publication of such information, for the individual to make inquiries and ascertain where the registrar for his precinct may be found.

The importance of attending to this matter cannot be too fully appreciated. The law is plain on the matter, and whether it is to the liking of the citizen or not, he is to be governed by its provisions.

Following is a list of the Precinct Registrars of Bryan County, as appointed by County Registrar J. V. Connell:

Bennington Township.
North Bennington Precinct, John Hall.
South Bennington Precinct, W. A. Pope.

Matoy Precinct. W. H. Cummings.
Cade Precinct. W. H. Fink.

Bokchito Precinct. A. C. Calvert.
Prichard Precinct. Roy Hawks.

Blue Precinct. J. I. Gossett.
Caddo Precinct. M. A. Linch.

East Caddo Precinct. C. A. Bilbo.
Kenefick Precinct. J. J. Nixon.
Pleasant Hill Precinct. D. E. Seagoe.

Spears Precinct. Sam B. Ross.
Armstrong Precinct. W. L. Rambo.
Sealy Precinct. H. C. Campbell.

Goodman Precinct. G. W. Leverett.
Shannon Precinct. W. O. Shannon.
Pirtle Precinct. Will Risner.

Brown Precinct. J. H. Brown.
Silo Precinct. W. F. Talley.
Mead Precinct. T. A. Adcock.

Colbert Precinct. C. W. Colbert.
Platter Precinct. J. A. Venable.
Achille Precinct. Lee Smith.

Mulberry Precinct. J. T. Williams.
Kemp Precinct. R. L. Adams.

Yarnaby Precinct. W. T. Hightower.
Hendrix Precinct. S. W. Johnson.
Calera Precinct. John King.

Roberta Precinct. John H. Condit.
Allison Precinct. D. Bond.
Bushnell Precinct. S. S. Park.

Albany Precinct. Wm. Martin.
Wade Precinct. Jas. Teague.
Utica Precinct. W. J. O'Donley.

Durant Precinct.
Ward One, J. H. Newman.
Ward Two, J. A. Simmons.
Ward Three, Tom Benson.
Ward Four, E. W. Matthews.

GETTING PLACE ON BALLOT

Monday was the first day for filing petitions for places on the primary election ballots for this year. The filings will be received from now until the 11th of June by the State Election Board. E. R. Waite, of Shawnee, was the first to file. He seeks the Republican nomination for Congressman from the Fourth District.

BILLY SUNDAY GIVEN \$40,000 IN BALTIMORE

Baltimore's gift to Billy Sunday will be \$40,000. He left that city Monday with certified checks representing \$32,500 and the amount necessary to make up \$40,000 will undoubtedly come from collections to be taken in the churches. Amid the wildest scenes of enthusiasm displayed in the city for many years, Sunday bid a last farewell to Baltimore. So great was the jam of struggling humanity at the Union Station to see for probably the last time the noted evangelist that it became necessary for the police to carry him through the surging throng to the train platform.

TO SUBMIT NINE AMENDMENTS

Initiated Bills May Not Find Place on the Ballot — No Arguments Filed Against Amendments, Which May Lead to Contests Later On.

Oklahoma City, April 27. — That there will be no bills submitted to the people at the election August 1 for their approval or rejection save the nine proposed amendments to the Constitution as framed by the Legislature seems certain. It had been thought by the Socialists, and is still believed by Senator Campbell Russell, that other initiated measures would go to the voters August 1. So far as the Socialists are concerned, it now seems that a construction of the law and court decisions make it necessary for the Governor to proclaim the Socialist fair election law and the Socialist registration law that is to be filed next week for the August election as a special election, in order that they may be voted on then. That this will be done by the Governor seems altogether probable. The bills will, therefore, go over until the November election.

Senator Campbell Russell says he will have his petition for an act vitalizing Section 12a of the Constitution ready for filing in a short time. He told Secretary of State Lyon he expects the bill to be submitted to the voters at the August election. There are two reasons for believing that this will not be done. One is that the Secretary of State has construed the law to mean that he can receive nothing to be submitted at the August election less than 100 days before that election. The last day under this theory of the law was April 22.

Another reason is that the construction of the law which makes the primary election a general election is being ignored and the August election is construed by the Legislature to be a special election and no initiated measures may be submitted at a special election save by proclamation of the Governor. Whether the Governor will proclaim the Russell measure for the August election in the face of the attitude of the Secretary of State holding that the time has passed for submitting matters and in view of the fact that the Socialist measures are in similar case seems to be extremely doubtful.

Another interesting item in the situation surrounding the coming election on constitutional amendments is that no arguments have as yet been filed with the Secretary of State against the proposed amendments, as required by law. If the law is construed as simply directory, there may be bad results from this in case the amendments or any of them shall be adopted at the election and their validity tested in the courts in the future. Otherwise the result may be assumed to be in doubt, even after a majority of the votes shall be counted in their favor until the Supreme Court shall have had an opportunity to make a final guess as to the meaning and intent of the law.

While the belief has been general that primary elections were such elections as the law contemplated should embrace initiated and referred matters, the line of reasoning that has been followed in the theory that they are not such elections seems to be very sound. Failure of the Socialist measures to get before the people at the August election will no doubt re-engage the grandfather clause in modified form upon the fundamental law of the State and thus eliminate some voters.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK HAS NEW PRESIDENT

Ed F. Rines who has for many years been the predominating force in the operation of the affairs of the First National Bank of Durant, has sold his holdings in that institution to H. W. Gibson, of Muskogee, and the latter has been elected to the presidency of the bank, vice Mr. Rines. The new official is a financier of many years experience and is one of the wealthiest men in this section. The personnel of the bank officers outside of the presidency, remains the same. Although Mr. Rines has not announced in what field of endeavor he will devote his future, it is rumored that he is to go into the real estate business and still make Durant his home.

THAW AGAIN FREE

A Pittsburgh court has declared in favor of granting an absolute decree of divorce to Harry K. Thaw, thus freeing him from matrimonial entanglements that have hitherto proved his undoing.

DANCE HALLS IN DURANT ARE OUT OF BUSINESS

The proprietors of a couple of dance halls in the city which have been in operation for some time past, got into arguments with each other a few nights ago, and as a consequence, aired their troubles before Mayor Yarbrough, sitting as judge of the city court last Tuesday. From

disclosures made at the hearing as to the manner in which the places have been conducted, the Mayor came to the conclusion that they should not be allowed to further enjoy their nocturnal festivities. His Honor said that they should be closed and remain closed and instructed the city officers to that effect.

There has been much condemnation of these places by a large part of the citizenship, urging that they were conducive of immorality among the patrons and especially as regards the younger element which made a practice of attending the dances.

That they have been ordered to close up and stay closed, is certainly a matter for congratulation to every citizen who wishes to keep his son or daughter from the embraces of one of the opposite sex without the formality of a marriage ceremony.

NORMAL HEADS DO NOT RESIGN

The State Board of Education has elected the faculty for the university and considered other State institutions. No resignations were received from the presidents of the Alva and Ada Normals, as had been requested, and no vacancies were created. Davis Hill, a member of the board, went to Ada and requested President Briles of the Normal at that place to resign. The latter declined to do so. In the course of their discussion it is understood the policy of the board was outlined by Dr. Hill to the effect that changes in heads of State schools might be expected with changes in State administrations. An attempt was made to remove Briles last year, but he secured a hearing of the several charges against him and there seemed to be no showing made under them, and for that reason the removal at that time was not accomplished.

DAUGHTERS COLLECTED NEAT SUM FOR REUNION

Little Confederate flags were very much in evidence on the streets of Durant Wednesday. The activities of the local Daughters of the Confederacy were responsible for this. The good ladies dispensed the miniature emblems for the sum of ten cents each, the proceeds to be used this summer to assist in defraying the expense of the Confederate Reunion to be held in Durant. The citizens responded liberally and a neat sum of money was realized, many giving considerably more than the ten cents solicited.

BUSSELL APPOINTED SUPT. OF KINGSTON SCHOOLS

Prof. Ben W. Buswell, principal of the South Ward School, has been notified that he has been chosen as principal of the Kingston Schools. Mr. Buswell has signified his intention of accepting the offer and he and his family will move to Kingston some time this summer.

DURANT LADIES ATTEND MEETING AT MADILL

The Fourth District Federated Women's Clubs met at Madill this week, convening Tuesday night with a big reception. A large number of ladies from this city are in attendance and are reported as having an interesting and instructive session.

ART MASON BUYS FORD

Art Mason, of the Texas Oil Company, at Armstrong invested in an automobile of the imported Ford variety this week, and is expected to be in town oftener in the future.

GERMANY MAY ACCEDE TO U. S.

Indications Are that Every Concession Possible Will Be Made to this Country to Maintain Peaceful Relations — Outlook Improving.

The most recent and reliable telegraphic information indicates that developments are pending which demonstrate unmistakably the desire of Emperor William of Germany to follow a course which will lead the United States and Germany out of the present crisis. The situation is now viewed more optimistically in all official quarters.

Ambassador Gerard is still maintaining silence, following his latest conference with Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, but information has been obtained from other sources indicating that the outlook has been much improved.

The latest indications are that the German reply to the American note may not be delivered until next week.

SCOTT AND OREGON TO TALK CO-OPERATION

The most recent advice from the National Capital say that instructions for the assistance of Major General Hugh L. Scott at his forthcoming conference with Carranza's War Minister, General Obregon, have been drafted by Secretary Baker after a conference with President Wilson and Secretary Lansing of the State Department. General Obregon will be at Eagle Pass before Saturday, but no word has been received from him as to the time and place of the meeting. The only official statement as to the nature of the instructions was the following issued by Secretary Baker:

"The instructions are to discuss a basis for the most cordial and complete co-operation between the American and Mexican forces in the attainment of their common object."

ANOTHER BATTLE WITH VILLA BANDITS

Two Americans were killed and three wounded in an engagement between cavalymen under Colonel George A. Dodd and 260 Villa bandits at Tomachic, in the center of the Sierra Madre, Western Chihuahua, on April 22, according to an official report. After the battle the Americans found six dead Mexicans and nineteen wounded, while a number of horses, arms and equipments were captured. Reports make no mention of Villa himself having been with the bandits, although it had been reported previously that he was hiding in the mountains in that vicinity.

It would seem to be a good idea for our officers who are buying automobiles for them to get an engine that would burn whisky as well as gasoline. In this way some of the captured booze could be put to good use instead of spilling it.

Material is on the ground for the erection of an interlocking plant at the crossing of the M. O. & G. and the Katy north of the city. Work on the system will commence in a few days and will greatly enhance the safety of trains at that point.

TAKE A GOOD LOOK at the illustration on page four—then go and see them for yourself. You'll be surprised how reasonable they are considering the big advance that has come on.

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